In order to prohibit child marriages and to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006" (No. 6 of 2007) was enacted and notified on 11th January, 2007.

Also awareness generation and advocacy measures are continuously being undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in this connection.

Legislation for criminal indulging in sexual exploitation of women and minor girls

†309. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to make any stringent legislation to deal with the criminals indulging in sexual exploitation and various other types of harassment of women and minor girls, and also to stop such crimes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 is the premier legislation for preventing trafficking of persons including women and children for commercial sexual exploitation. The Act is now proposed to be further amended to impose more stringent penalties for traffickers and other perpetrators of the crime and also delete those provisions which result in re-victimization of the victim. The proposed Amendments are being processed for approval by competent authorities.

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PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of article 123 of the Constitution, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 (No.8 of 2008) dated the 13th October, 2008. [Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 8962/08]

Notification of the Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.